



ecology and environment, inc.

717 W. TEMPLE ST., LOS ANGELES, CA 90012, TEL. 213-481-3870

International Specialists in the Environment

SFUND RECORDS CTR
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Paul La Courreye, EPA Region 9 Site Screening Coordinator

FROM: Ara Mardirosian, Ecology and Environment, Inc.

DATE: 12/31/87

SUBJECT: Reassessment of Union Pacific Railroad Company,
Las Vegas Yard
Corner of Main and Fremont Streets
Las Vegas, Nevada 89101

EPA ID#: NVD981989908

THROUGH: Dan Millison, Ecology and Environment, Inc.

COPY: FIT Master File
Patty Cook, E & E, INC.
Lew Dodgion, Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources,
Division of Environmental Protection
Doug Zimmerman, Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural
Resources, Division of Environmental Protection

INTRODUCTION

Under Technical Directive Document number F9-8709-019, Ecology and Environment, Inc.'s Field Investigation Team (FIT) has been tasked to reassess all Preliminary Assessments (PAs) in the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Information System (CERCLIS) with "active" or "pending" status according to guidelines established to implement the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA). The strategy for determination of further action under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) is based solely on each site's potential to achieve a score high enough on the Hazard Ranking System (HRS) for inclusion on the National Priorities List (NPL). This strategy is intended to identify those sites posing the highest relative risk to human health or the environment. All other sites needing remedial or enforcement follow-up will be referred to the States or an appropriate Federal agency.

This site was evaluated primarily using the original HRS model. Additionally, this site was also evaluated for its potential to score using the draft revised HRS model. The following is a summary of FIT's findings with regard to this site.

SUMMARY

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Union Pacific Railroad Company, Las Vegas Yard (UPR), operated a railroad roundhouse for an unknown number of years. During this time, the use of petroleum products and solvents was prevalent. The facility is still active and is now used primarily for refueling locomotives. In the past two years there have been three documented spills involving diesel fuel and PCBs. There is also documented total hydrocarbon contamination in the shallow groundwater and the soil on site.

All drinking water wells located within a 3-mile radius of UPR are upgradient of the site. The water pumped from these wells is mixed with water from Lake Mead, before distribution. The percent mix is 70% Lake Mead water and 30% well water. It is unknown what the exact population served is, however it is greater than 10,000 people.

UPR did not attain the minimal preliminary HRS score needed for inclusion on the NPL. The low HRS score is due to lack of observed releases to groundwater, surface water, or air. Although there is documented total hydrocarbon contamination in the shallow groundwater, this water is not used for any purpose; in addition, the hydrocarbon products in question are exempt from HRS scoring. The main water bearing units vary in depth from 200 feet to over 900 feet below ground surface.

RECOMMENDATION

1) EPA

FIT recommends No Further Action under CERCLA for this site.

This recommendation is based on a low preliminary HRS score. This is due to a low value for depth to aquifer of concern, route characteristics, and distance to nearest well. Also, UPR has contracted Dames and Moore, who have conducted on-site sampling, and have developed an initial remediation plan for the site.

2) State or Other Agency

A copy of this reassessment will be sent to Nevada's Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Division of Environmental Protection.

EPA CONCURRENCE

	<u>Initial</u>	<u>Date</u>
No Further Action Under CERCLA	<u>pre</u>	<u>2.22.88</u>
High Priority SSI	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Medium Priority SSI	<u> </u>	<u> </u>